

COSTA RICA

## EX-AMBASSADOR'S CHARGES IN VESCO CASE SCORED

[Article; San Jose, Prensa Libre, Spanish, 11 May 1973, p 14<sub>7</sub>

The Minister of Presidency, Mr. Gonzalo Solorzano, called a press conference this morning to comment on certain statements made by the "former ambassador of the Figueres administration in Spain," Mr. Otilio Ulate, to the effect that President Figueres shared in the loot from thefts committed by Robert I. Vesco.

Minister Solorzano quoted a paragraph from Mr. Ulate's statement expressing the aforementioned view, and said that he had compared the comments made by a "responsible American judge familiar with the facts with the charges made so untruthfully and irresponsibly by former Ambassador Ulate, who does not know what he is talking about." The minister remarked: "Mr. Ulate is well known for his type of language, but those statements are rather rash."

The paragraph which Minister Solorzano quoted read as follows:

"There (in the United States), the prison gates have been opened for the sinister perpetrators of the worst and most ignominious swindle of all time, and for their accomplices dispatched by the White House. Here, the Palace gates are opening to protect those same people, and to share the property of others with them. The accomplices by no means suffered the kind of penalty imposed on Tantalus. They had meals, and drank glasses of champagne at the banquet; and they were sent away with money, regardless of how tainted it was."

Justice Charles E. Stewart's comments, which he compared with those made by Ulate, were as follows:

"Mr. Figueres, I personally appreciate your taking the trouble to come to New York. We have heard things about your country in connection with this case. We are familiar with your country over and above this case. We believe that it is making great accomplishments under your

father's leadership. I consider it an honor to have you present in the courtroom."

The foregoing remarks were made by the judge in question to Mr. Jose Maria Figueres, President Figueres' son, when the president expressed a wish to testify in a New York court concerning the matter of the mutual funds.

At the beginning of his comments, Minister Solorzano had said that he did not care to mention the statements which Mr. Ulate had made on political and election affairs, "because I do not want to become involved in that; but I do wish to cite the printed statements, which are a series of comic strips that he invented."

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CSO: 4200-W